

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:25 p.m. in the Hanger 706. In his remarks, he referred to Col. Felix Grieder, USAF, Commander, 436th Airlift Wing, and Col. Tom Keitel, USAFR, Acting Commander, 512th Airlift Wing.

Statement on the Minnesota Tobacco Settlement and Tobacco Legislation

May 8, 1998

Every day, 3,000 young people start a habit that will kill 1,000 of them before their time. Three years ago, appalled by these trends, I committed this administration to stopping the sale and marketing of cigarettes to children. Now, thanks to our efforts and the persistence of State attorneys general, we have the best opportunity ever to pass comprehensive tobacco legislation that will save millions of our children from premature death.

Today we have learned that Minnesota has won important new concessions from the tobacco industry. The Minnesota settlement, like those reached earlier in Mississippi, Florida, and Texas, will help us combat tobacco industry marketing to kids. This action provides still further momentum to our effort to pass bipartisan comprehensive tobacco legislation this year. All our Nation's children are at risk from tobacco, and we must have comprehensive national legislation to stop young Americans from smoking before they start, by raising the price of cigarettes, putting into place tough restrictions on advertising and access, imposing penalties on the industry if it continues to sell cigarettes to children, ensuring that the FDA has authority to regulate tobacco products, and protecting farmers and farming communities.

Digest of Other White House announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

May 3

In the afternoon, the President traveled from Palo Alto to Westwood, CA. In the evening, he traveled to Beverly Hills.

May 4

In the morning, the President traveled to San Fernando, CA.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Chicago, IL, and in the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Hans Mark to be Director of Defense Research and Engineering at the Department of Defense.

The President announced his intention to nominate former Representative Norman Y. Mineta to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority.

The President announced his intention to nominate Clyde J. Hart to be Administrator for the Maritime Administration at the Department of Transportation.

The President announced his intention to appoint Donna Nigh as a member of the President's Committee on Mental Retardation.

May 5

The President announced his intention to nominate L. Britt Snider to be Inspector General of the Central Intelligence Agency.

May 6

In the morning, the President met with Prime Minister Romano Prodi of Italy in the Oval Office.

May 8

In the morning, the President traveled to Dover, DE. In the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Raymond W. Kelly to be Commissioner of the U.S. Customs Service.

The President announced his intention to nominate James E. Johnson to be Under Secretary for Enforcement at the Department of the Treasury.

The President announced his intention to nominate Elisabeth A. Breese to be Assistant Secretary for Enforcement at the Department of the Treasury.